

80. An apparatus according to claim 75, further comprising means for rewriting the amount of money in response to a judgment operation of said judging means.

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81. An apparatus according to claim 75, further comprising means for outputting a use state of the information external from the device in response to a judgment operation of said judging means.--.

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 24-81 are pending in this application, with Claims 24, 28, 33, 41, 46, 49-51, 64, 70, and 75 being independent.

Claims 24-28, 33-36, 41, 43, 46, 49, and 50-52 have been amended and Claims 54-81 have been added. Applicant submits that support for the amendments and the new claims can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 25 and 46 were objected to based on minor informalities, and Claims 34-36 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicant has amended the claims in view of the Examiner's comments and submits that the objection and rejection have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and the rejection under Section 112.

Claims 24-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,302,811 (Fukatsu). Claims 51-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being

obvious over Fukatsu. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons discussed below.

The present invention recited in the independent claims relates to providing electronic information in accordance with input money information. As recited in the independent claims, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the feature of processing so as to enable use of the electronic information provided by an information provider in accordance with a permission signal. By this feature, the processing to enable use of the electronic information can be controlled in accordance with whether the money information permits use of the electronic information, thereby permitting control of use of the electronic information.

Applicant submits that Fukatsu fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of the present invention and therefore fails to achieve the same advantages. That patent relates to a system wherein, if input money information is higher than the cost of goods, the goods are provided to the purchaser. However, that patent does not disclose or suggest the provision of electronic information. Moreover, since Fukatsu relates to goods, there is no disclosure or suggestion of processing to enable use of electronic information when such use is permitted. The goods provided in the Fukatsu system do not require processing to enable use, but rather simple delivery of the goods.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention recited in the independent claims is patentable over Fukatsu.

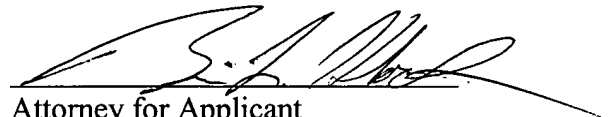
The dependent claims recite additional features that further distinguish the present invention from the cited art. For example, Claims 26, 59, 61, 63, 66, and 77 include the feature wherein the electronic information to be provided is enciphered and the processing includes a process of decoding the enciphered electronic information. Applicant submits that the dependent

claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as due to the additional features they recite. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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Appln. No. 09/335,031
July 10, 2001



APPENDIX

MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CLAIM AMENDMENTS

24. (Amended) An accounting method comprising:

a step of inputting money information indicating an amount of money recorded on a recording medium;

a step of judging the money information input from said input means and outputting a permission signal for permitting a use of electronic information provided by an information provider; and

a step of processing so as to enable use of the electronic information provided by the information provider in accordance with the permission signal [changing the money information based on a result of judging by said judging means].

25. (Amended) A method according to Claim 24, wherein the electronic information to be provided is enciphered [said judging step judges the money information in accordance with the money information and use charge information added to the provided information].

26. (Amended) A method according to Claim [24] 25, wherein said step of processing comprises a process of decoding the enciphered electronic information [money information is cash].

Appln. No. 09/335,031
July 10, 2001

27. (Amended) A method according to Claim 24, wherein said step of judging judges the money information in accordance with the money information and use charge information added to the electronic information to be provided [money information is recorded in a recording medium].

28. (Amended) An information receiving method for receiving information provided by an information provider, comprising:

a step of inputting money information indicating an amount of money recorded on a recording medium;

a step of judging the money information input from said input means and outputting a permission signal for permitting a use of electronic information provided by an information provider; and

a step of processing so as to enable use of the electronic information provided by the information provider in accordance with the permission signal [changing the money information based on a result of judging said judging means].

33. (Amended) A communication method comprising:

a step of providing information including first money information from an electronic information provider terminal;

a step of receiving and using electronic information provided by said electronic information provider terminal and second money information; and

Appln. No. 09/335,031
July 10, 2001

a step of comparing the first money information and the second money information and [,] outputting a permission signal for permitting a use of the electronic information provider terminal according to a result of the comparison; and

a step of processing so as to enable use of said electronic information provided by an information provider in accordance with the permission signal [, and altering the second money information].

34. (Amended) A method according to claim 33, wherein the electronic information is enciphered and wherein said step of processing comprises a step of decoding the enciphered electronic information [comparing step judges the money information in accordance with the money information and use charge information added to the provided information].

35. A method according to Claim 33, wherein at least one of the first money information and the second [said] money information is cash.

36. (Amended) A method according to Claim 33, wherein at least one of the first money information and the second [said] money information is recorded in a recording medium.

41. (Amended) A method for accounting, comprising the steps of:
inputting first data indicating an amount of money;

inputting second data regarding electronic information subscribed from an information provider to a terminal via a network;

judging whether a use of the electronic information at the terminal can be permitted or not, in accordance with the first and second data; and

processing so as to enable use of the electronic information provided by the information provider in accordance with the judging [indicating the judgment result of a use permission].

43. (Amended) A method according to Claim 41, wherein said first data includes data indicating a [the] type of a recording medium in which said first data is recorded, and said judging step judges a use permission of the information in accordance with the data indicating the type.

46. (Amended) A program storage medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to [ot] perform an accounting method, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting money information indicating an amount of money recorded on a recording medium;

judging the money information inputted in said input step and outputting a permission signal for permitting a use of electronic information provided by an information provider; and

Appln. No. 09/335,031
July 10, 2001

processing so as to enable use of the electronic information provided by the information provider in accordance with the permission signal [changing the money information based on a result of judging in said judging step].

49. (Amended) An accounting program storage medium readable by a computer, comprising the following steps of:

inputting [obtaining] first data indicating a first amount of money;

inputting [obtaining] second data regarding electronic information subscribed from an information provider to a terminal via a network [indicating a second amount of money regarding an information provided from an information provider];

judging whether a use of the electronic information can be permitted or not, in accordance with the first and second data;

[rewriting the amount of money in the first data based on the judgment operation,] and

processing so as to enable use of the electronic information provided by the information provider in accordance with the judging [notifying the judgment result of a use permission].

50. (Amended) An accounting program storage medium readable by a computer, comprising following steps of:

obtaining first data indicating a first amount of money [recorded on a recording

Appln. No. 09/335,031
July 10, 2001

medium];

obtaining [a] second data indicating a second amount of money regarding [an]
electronic information provided [subscribed] from an information provider [via network];

judging whether a use of the electronic information can be permitted or not, in
accordance with the first and second data;

processing so as to enable use of the electronic information provided by the
information provider in accordance with the judging;

rewriting the amount of money in the first data based on the judgment
operation, and

notifying the judgment result of a use permission.

51. (Amended) A transaction system comprising:

a provider which provides electronic [plurality of information providers which
provide] information with a price data of the electronic information,

a device which obtains [plurality of terminal devices which obtain a] money
data recorded on a recording medium and the electronic information with the price data, in which
the money data is compared with the price data to judge if the money amount is enough [plenty
of money] for use the electronic information, wherein the device rewrites the money data based
on a use of the electronic information and outputs the price corresponding to the use of the

Appln. No. 09/335,031
July 10, 2001

electronic information, and performs processing so as to enable use of the electronic information provided by the information provider in accordance with the judging; and

an administrative terminal which sums up the price outputted from the terminal device for each information and notifies results of summing up for each information respectively to the information provider [providers] which provides the information.

52. (Amended) A transaction system according to Claim 51, wherein said information provider [providers], said terminal device [devices] and said administrative terminal are connected via a network.

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